

# The Times Dispatch

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1913.

## RAILROADS AND WAGES.

No recent legislative act or judicial decision seems destined to have a larger influence on our economic history than the award by the board of arbitration of a 1 per cent wage increase to the conductors and trainmen of the Eastern railroads. The increase means some \$6,000,000 a year to the roads; but this is not the most important effect. The fundamentally striking part of the award is that it is based on the increased cost of living. On four counts the demands of the employes were refused, on the basis of a 1 per cent increase in the cost of living the award was made.

For one thing, as Virginians, we must weigh the future of the University of Virginia carefully and thoughtfully. In the end, we do not see now any real injury can be done to this institution by enlarging its means and opportunities. The point to be considered is how best to gain this enlargement.

Two aspects of modern medicine we must bear in mind. One is that much of the work in preventive and social medicine in the South has to be done in rural districts. Our rural population of negroes presents difficulties that are not found in the North. What ever kind of medical education we give must prepare young men for this work. Again, the same peculiar conditions of climate, and people, force upon us the scientific study of diseases that must be wiped out if the South is to reach its highest development.

The South could control the election, of course, but we trust that no spirit of sectionalism will enter into the contest. Palmer is a Northerner and Kitchin a Southerner, but the best man should have the place, no matter where he comes from. A man of strength and capacity for leadership is needed, and must be had. It is doubtful whether there is left in the House a man who can at once bend Underwood's bow.

## THE TORRENS SYSTEM ON THE PROGRAM.

Berkley D. Adams, member of the House of Delegates from Charlotte County, is preparing a bill for the establishment in Virginia of the Torrens system of land title registration and warranty, which he will offer for the consideration of the General Assembly at its forthcoming session.

No more appropriate patron could be had for the bill, for Mr. Adams has given long and practical study to agricultural problems, and is not only a member of the board of visitors of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and of the House Committee on Agriculture, but is also president of the State Board of Agriculture. The measure which he will put upon the legislative calendar in January is of especial and vital interest to farmers. It is entitled to their full support. As Mr. Adams says, the introduction of this system will in itself go far toward solving the problem of rural credits. Under this method the farmer will be saved much time, labor and expense in transferring, purchasing or obtaining loans upon land. He will not have to pay a lawyer every time he wishes to transfer his land, temporarily or permanently. The Torrens system will enable him in a land transaction to get his money far more easily and quickly. It guarantees his title to the land he transfers and the land he buys. If there is a defect which causes him to lose it, the State will make the loss good to him.

The Times-Dispatch believes the way is clearing for a great forward step. It urges that we consider this step not scathingly, nor divided by the hope of vast funds or a numerous body of students, but that we bear first in mind what can be done to serve all the people of the South.

## NUMBER THE PLAYERS.

Why not put numbers on the backs of football players? From the point of view of the average spectator at gridiron battles, there seems to be no reason against the plan, and many in its favor. In the old days it was bad enough. Twenty-two quick and slippery young men darting around in semi-darkness that covered up everything, from the shape of their legs to the color of their eyes, were not easily distinguishable as friend or foe, although they started from the same place in each play. When they got mired with mud or dust they became even more incognito. The best rooster in the far grandstand could do nothing to recognize some of the players on his favorite team.

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Even more momentous than this is the evident fact that we are slowly coming to a practical form of government ownership by logic, whatever we may think of the outcome. By national and State control, we fix the rates which carriers can charge. By boards of arbitration, which seem bound some day to coalesce with the above agencies, we have started on a policy of fixing wages. By congressional action, we are soon to understand the physical valuation of the railroad property. Contained in this is the idea of control over the financing of railroads, the single point at present left untouched. These facts are of profound economic significance, and the sooner we face them clearly and with determination, the sooner will we find a means of helping the railroads from pressure that threatens to crush them.

**THE PROFITABLE PARCEL POST.** Before the parcel post had been established, it was fought on the ground that its cost to the government would be excessive. After it had been instituted, its opponents ceased to predict deficit and admitted that after twelve months the enterprise would show a surplus in the budget. It is now beyond question that its income will exceed the parcel post's amount to twenty-five, based on total gross receipts to date.

These figures are sufficient evidence of the popularity and practicability of the new service. Yet we urge a recent and rather hasty but important condition. The government enacts no statute in that it has not made an equal rate for the transportation of the parcels which the Postoffice Department has hitherto compensated to the railroads.

Thus far, the Postmaster General has been unable to make any arrangement with the railroads, and the Postmaster General has informed him as to his right to do so. We understand that Dartmouth and New Haven will number their packages next Saturday, May 12, to show the example.

Whether if any other human alive has had so many homely deprivations inflicted upon him as to fit him to be a postman, we used to wonder.

Finally, after getting along for several years with a crazy King, his decision that the King is important enough to receive the services of a postman, some tribute to humanity that!

Richmond—the South's greatest need—has been met.

Where are the literary wags with Vice-Presidential Diagonal that we used to be about every day?

To-morrow the Times-Dispatch will be sending out a column on the subject.

Dr. Harvey W. Wiley says: "I would rather be able to cook a potato well than to paint the frescoes of the Vatican." Some folks would rather be able to buy one.

A statistician says: "English is spoken by 150,000,000 persons." One who knows says only about seventy-four of these speak it correctly.

Ola Nethersole is suing because her managers did not keep her on the boards two years. Can it be that Ola's once famous incandescent osculation has been dimmed by modern improvements?

An Indian summer seems chiefly notable for giving folks a bad cold.

## A MEDICAL SCHOOL FOR SERVICE.

The people of Richmond cannot but be glad that this city seems destined to be the centre of medical education for Virginia and the surrounding South. The prospect of a great college of healing science formed by a union of the Medical College of Virginia with the University of Virginia Medical Department and endowed with \$2,000,000 to carry on its work, is one that calls up splendid visions of service to the whole people. This is the prospect that seems about to be realized and we trust that by clear thinking with our eyes on the public ideal of making the race healthier and happier, we may work for the achievement.

We believe that the first step is a broad study of what are the actual needs in medical education and how they may be fulfilled. There should be no disposition to look upon the possible gifts of millions with any sentiment but deep gratitude, yet we should not accept such a gift on conditions that hinder our freedom to meet the real demands upon us. The surveys made by Dr. Flexner have disclosed some of the conditions of the problem. Yet there may be matters of local significance that are not readily adjusted by an outsider, who views the situation solely as a problem in scientific sociology.

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